



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2007
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/KYW

CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

FOURTEEN OWENSBORO RESIDENTS INDICTED ON FEDERAL DRUG RELATED CHARGES

LOUISVILLE, KY - A federal grand jury in Louisville returned an indictment on August 22, 2007, against **James Calhoun**, age 28, **Antoni Wimsatt**, age 27, **Chance Morton**, age 19, **Dewayne Michael Hall**, age 31, **Jonathan Howard**, age 28, **Mario Palmer**, age 21, **Desmond Morton**, age 23, **William Johnson**, age 29, **Montae Goodnight**, age 19, **Troy Anderson**, age 44, **Damien Thruston**, age 25, and **John Leak**, age 26, all of Owensboro, Kentucky, in Daviess County, on charges of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today.

U.S. Attorney Huber praised the work of the Owensboro Police Department for "their outstanding police work in this case," and for their initiating and taking a leading role in this investigation. Huber continued by saying, "Since I have been U.S. Attorney, I can personally say I have never been disappointed in Chief John Kazlauskas and his Department." Regarding the investigation leading to Thursday's arrests, Huber said, "This case is a perfect example of local, state, and federal cooperation that takes a local drug gang off the streets."

Also charged in the indictment, but not in the drug conspiracy, were **Deanna Watson**, age 25, of Owensboro, Kentucky, who is charged with maintaining a premises for the purpose of manufacturing and distributing crack cocaine, and **Jamie Payne**, age 39, also of Owensboro, Kentucky, with accepting drug proceeds in exchange for providing vehicles to be used in drug

transactions, a form of money laundering.

The Indictment alleges that from on or about and between September 2006, until on or about August 21, 2007, in Daviess County, Kentucky and elsewhere, James Calhoun, Antoni Wimsatt, Chance Morton, Michael Hall, Jonathan Howard, Mario Palmer, Desmond Morton, William Johnson, Montae Goodnight, Troy Anderson, Damien Thruston, and John Leak, conspired with each other to knowingly and intentionally possess with the intent to distribute 5 grams or more of crack cocaine. The indictment also alleges 22 separate substantive counts where quantities of crack cocaine were actually distributed.

Since sometime in 2006, law enforcement officers from the Owensboro Police Department, the Kentucky State Police, and the Drug Enforcement Administration have been conducting an investigation involving a group of drug traffickers, known as D-BLOCK, located in Owensboro, Kentucky. D-BLOCK, which stands for "Drug Block," refers to a geographic area controlled by a loose knit street gang located in Owensboro between West 8th and 9th Streets and in the vicinity of Pennbrooke Avenue. According to an affidavit of a DEA Special Agent, multiple controlled drug buys were made from the defendants.

In the event of a conviction, the maximum potential penalties are 40 years imprisonment, a \$2,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of at least 4 years; and the minimum potential penalties are 5 years imprisonment.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel P. Kinnicutt, and it was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Owensboro Police Department, and the Kentucky State Police.

All of the defendants are scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on September 27, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., in Owensboro, Kentucky.

* * *

The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

###